MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC NEWS

February 2017 – The next regular MNS meeting will be held Thursday, February 16, 2017, 7 PM, at the Mayfair Mall Community Room. Extended exhibits will be featured.

President:	Justin Perrault	**Vice President:**	Jim Heinrich
Secretary:	John Bleidorn	**Treasurer:**	Lee Hartz
Sgt. at Arms:	Jeff Gaffke	**Trustee '15-'17:**	Tom Dallmann
Trustee '17-'19:	Dave Hunsicker	**Trustee '16-'18:**	Gary Bieringer
Librarian:	Joe Paonessa	**Newsletter editor:**	Leon Saryan

Mailing address: **c/o PO Box 241174, Milwaukee, WI 53224-9028**
Newsletter material: **c/o PO Box 210313, Milwaukee, WI 53221-8006 LASaryan@aol.com**
Web Site Address: www.milwaukeenumismaticsociety.com

The Milwaukee Numismatic Society, founded in 1934, is the oldest and largest organization in Milwaukee devoted to the study of money. Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month in the Community Room on the lower level of Mayfair Mall (W. North Avenue at N. Mayfair Road). Our annual coin show is held in October.

February Coin of the Month: This month we are offering an attractive slabbed set of three US dollar coins (1971 and 1976 Ikes and a 1999 Susan B. Anthony), all graded BU, at a super low starting price of $10 for the entire set. Encapsulating just one coin costs about $30, so this set is a real bargain. Bid aggressively on these!

February 2017 MNS President's Message

Already we are a full month into 2017 and things are shaping up to be a very busy year. Another competition of fantasy numismatics is underway. As you can see from the winners (and losers) that were listed in last month's newsletter, making a large profit on coin investments, however hypothetical, is much more difficult than meets the eye. Please be sure to review the pricing magazine at the next meeting and fill out an entry form for this year's competition. It costs you nothing to participate, and who knows, maybe this year you will be the big winner. There will be plenty of entry blanks for you to use at the next meeting.

For those of you on Facebook, you may be interested to know that the MNS is now represented with its very own page. It can be found by doing a general search on Facebook, and it is still in its very early infancy stages. It is my hope that this page, combined with our website, will serve to reach out to a greater number of people, maybe even the younger generation of potential budding collectors. Club news, photos, calendar events, and general numismatic news stories of note will all be posted to the Facebook page as time progresses. If you are not on Facebook you can always sign up for your own account – it is free and very easy to do. If you are already on, I hope that you will check out the new MNS page!

As mentioned in the last newsletter, please consider applying for a scholarship (full or partial) to this year's ANA Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs. We already have received one potential application which the Board will consider. The more applicants we have the better. If 2017does not work out for you, please keep it in mind for next year. Please see me with any questions or if you are interested in knowing all of the specific requirements.

At the next meeting the membership will consider the bus trip down to the CSNS show later in April. We also have a number of good programs coming up at the next few meetings, which will be described in further detail at the meeting and in subsequent newsletters. Just so it does not go unmentioned again, please ensure that you pay your membership dues for the 2017 year. With all of the perks (door prizes, refreshments, social activities and outings, collegial exchanges of knowledge), being a member more than pays for itself all the year through.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting and let's keep moving the club forward.

Happy Collecting,
Justin J. Perrault
masters1122@yahoo.com
262.613.9996

The 2017 MNS officers were sworn in on January 19 by Leon S. From l to r: Jeff G., Lee H, Justin P., Jim H., John B. and Dave H.

MN$ 2017

Schedule

Monthly meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Room in the lower level of Mayfair Mall. Visitors interested in numismatics are welcome.

Monthly meeting programs

Jan 19:	Officer Inductions
Feb 16:	Open
March 16:	Rev. Paul Bulgerin: Numismatic Archaeology
April 20:	Dave Hunsicker: Milwaukee Transportation Collectable
April 27:	CSNS Bus Trip
May 18:	Spring Auction
June 15:	Open
July 20:	Open
Aug 17:	Open
Sept 21:	Open
Oct 19:	Raffle Ticket Prize Drawing
Nov 16:	Autumn Auction; Election Slate
Dec 21:	Holiday Party; Officer Elections

Annual Dues

Dues for 2017 are $10. Please pay Leon A. at the next meeting, or they may be mailed to MNS, PO Box 241174, Milwaukee, WI 53224. Thanks to those who have paid.

PLEASE NOTE:

MNS is a volunteer organization. We always need new and interesting programs, activities, helpers to work at events, and someone to bring refreshments for the meetings. We are also looking for ideas for club outings. MNS will reimburse refreshment expenses up to $60. To volunteer, please contact Pres. Justin Perrault at 262.613.9996 or VP Jim Heinrich at 262.796.1814. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up by volunteering their time and talent to make this club a success.

2017 Numismatic Events

February 19	Wisconsin Coin Expo – Oshkosh Convention Center (9-4 PM)
February 23-25	Tinley Park, IL Coin Show
February 26	Racine Coin Show – Roma Lodge 9-3 PM
March 5	Madison NOW Coin Show (9-4) Sheraton Hotel, 706 John Nolan Dr.
March 12	Waukesha Coin Show (9-4 PM) New Berlin Ale House
April 7-8	South Shore Coin Club show, Milwaukee Airport Crowne Plaza
April 8	MNS Boy Scout Clinic, Milwaukee Airport Crowne Plaza (volunteers gather at 7 AM)
April 26-29	CSNS Coin Show Renaissance Convention Center Schaumburg, IL

Refreshment Schedule

Jan:	Dave Herrwig
Feb:	Jim Heinrich
Mar:	John Bleidorn
Apr:	Tom Dallmann
May:	Justin Perrault
Jun:	Open
Jul:	Open
Aug:	Open
Sep:	Open
Oct:	Open
Nov:	Open
Dec:	Holiday Party

2016 FN winners Jim H. and Josh W.

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

Minutes

January 19, 2017

President Justin Perrault called the 975th meeting of the MNS to order at 7:02 pm. There were 25 members and 1 guest in attendance. The president led the club in the pledge of allegiance. Door prizes were won by: Justin P, Leon A, Rodger L, Peter J, John B, Ed F, Tom P, Tom S, Leon S, Dave H, Josh W.

Coin of the Month: Steve J won the coin of the month, a 13 Colonies state quarter set with a bid of $15.00.

Election: Officers were sworn in for 2017: President-Justin Perrault, VP-Jim Heinrich, Secretary-John Bleidorn, Treasurer-Lee Hartz, Sgt at Arms-Jeff Gaffke, and Trustee Dave Hunsicker.

Treasurer's Report: Lee Hartz reported that November showed receipts of $154.00 and $1,154.00 in disbursements for a negative cash flow of $1,000.00.

Correspondence: Numismatist magazine, Centinel, NOW News, Quad City coin club flyers.

Vice President Report: There are openings for several months in the upcoming year for members to present programs & bring refreshments.

Newsletter: Short articles produced by members are always appreciated.

Fantasy Numismatics: 2017 applications are available. The 2016 top winners were given prizes.

Summer Seminar Scholarship: ANA 2017 summer full & partial scholarships are now available for submission. Application deadlines are February 1 and can be mailed or e-mailed to Justin.

Show & Tell: Tom D-Washington DC trip souvenirs, Tom C-USS Missouri relic & Check vignettes, Leon S-Armenian medals, Jeff G-Ship coins & German inflation currency, Bob M-CSNS non-competitive exhibit honors, Roger L-Chicago coin club medal, Neil S-Long short-snorter, Tom S-Anoka note, Peter J-CSS Hunley submarine model & Lt. Dixon coin, Tom P-Trump medals.

The meeting was informally adjourned at 9:02 pm by President Perrault.

Respectfully submitted by John Bleidorn

Neil S (l) shows off his longest short snorter with Peter J assisting on Jan. 19 (Dave H photo)

FILTHY LUCRE IS ABSOLUTELY DISGUSTING

BY ARTHUR L. FRIEDBERG / SPECIAL TO COIN WORLD

RESEARCHER SHOWS JUST HOW DIRTY PAPER MONEY IS, AND WHY ALL MONEY SHOULD BE 'LAUNDERED'

Numismatics, the study of money, takes on an entirely new dimension in a recent article in *Scientific American* by Dina Fine Maron. Money, she discovered, is disgusting. My father always called working in numismatics as dealing in the "grime of centuries," and he always implored me to wash my hands after touching them and before doing anything else. I don't think he realized how right he was, but thanks to Maron, now we do.

A piece titled "Dirty Dollars: The Public Health Case for a Cashless Society," summarizes a number of studies that have been made in recent years with the comment that "perhaps all money should be laundered."

A U.S. Air Force study of 68 $1 notes in 2002 found that 94 percent of them contained forms of bacteria, some of which could cause pneumonia or other infections. More recent studies deliver even more bad news. Part of the problem for U.S. currency is its 75 percent cotton and 25 percent linen paper. Unlike polymer-based substrates that are essentially plastic, it is porous and those crevices serve as a bacterial breeding ground. With paper, the longer a note stays in circulation, the more contaminated it can become. Since the lower denominations change hands so frequently, they have greater exposure to pathogens, some of which can survive on them for months.

Maron went on to delineate what she called a "rogue's gallery" of hazardous little microbes that have made their way from noses, hands, and aprons onto money, as well as a variety of yeasts and molds that made a similar journey. Among them: the antibiotic-resistant bacteria responsible for MRSA that can create life-threatening blood infections; e coli bacteria; and another that causes diarrhea, urinary tract infections and kidney failure. Not surprisingly, traces of cocaine and heroin have also been found.

The *Wall Street Journal* mentions an ongoing, as yet unpublished study at New York University's Center for Genomics and Systems Biology that found about 3,000 types of organisms on a sample of only 80 $1 bills. In addition to bacteria linked to pneumonia, food poisoning and staph infections, they also found bills with DNA traces from various animals, including a white rhino.

A recent article in *Scientific American* summarizes a series of studies that reveal just how dirty U.S. paper money can be.

Coin World Image.

The Federal Reserve System said there are no plans to change the paper composition and cited a 1982 study that showed a poor survival rate for flu viruses on environmental surfaces as proof that currency was not a good transmission agent.

The story also makes a pitch for a cashless society as a public health measure rather than as a matter of crime prevention or economic policy. It says card-based payment systems eliminate the need for handling money, and concludes that its better to clean keypads.

TECH SPECIALIST IN INDIA MAY HAVE SOLVED THE PROBLEM OF FILTHY MONEY, NEWSPAPER REPORTS

The Times of India says that a tech specialist in Bangalore has solved the filthy money problem. Rejani Krishnankutty, a medical nanotechnology worker, will discuss with the Indian government a proposal to put a "microbiocidal silver nanoparticle coating" on bank notes to disinfect them.

She said that she "found silver nanoparticle coating acted successfully against several disease causing micro-organisms like Staphylococcus aureus, E coli and pseudomonas which infect notes. Due to its anti-microbial properties, since ages silver has been used to make jewelry, water storage vessels and medicinal applications to heal wounds. Now, it has another use."

She added that silver behaves differently as nanoparticles than it does in bulk, and, when it broken down as such, "it becomes even more efficient and effective against at least 12 species of micro-organisms."

The practicality of the proposal was not addressed, although one reader commented that the same results could be achieved by exposure to ultraviolet light.

***The Times of India* says that a tech specialist in Bangalore has solved the filthy money problem, using silver to kill microbes.**

Illustration by C.R. Sassikuman courtesy of The Indian Express.

FLIGHT FROM WISCONSIN

By Tom Casper

For many years the sign, UNIVERSITY OF LAWSONOMY, appeared along Interstate 94 near the county line between Kenosha and Racine counties. The sign commemorates Alfred William Lawson, a remarkable man who excelled in three unrelated careers; professional baseball, aviation and philosophy. He is considered one of the pioneers of early aviation. I was intrigued to find a medal honoring this forgotten man who was unfamiliar to me, which mentions my hometown of Milwaukee. Here is the story of the man and his medal.

Early in the twentieth century aviation was being developed in the U.S. as well as foreign countries. The race was on to see who could develop the first motorized airplane. In the U.S. the Wright Brothers of Dayton, Ohio became the most famous. It was 1903 when Orville Wright piloted the world's first successful airplane. But numerous other aviation pioneers and inventors throughout the U.S. were also competing for the honor. Many of these names are familiar to us; Charles Taylor of Dayton, Ohio, who originally worked for the Wright Brothers; Glenn Curtiss of Hammondsport, New York, Allan Lockheed of Chicago; Glenn L. Martin of Los Angeles, and William Boeing of Seattle. I soon learned that Wisconsin also had one of those early pioneers, Alfred William Lawson, who was born in 1869 in London and came to the United States in 1872.

The 38mm bronze medal features his bust in profile, and reads on the obverse, "United States of America/1919 with Liberty at the base of his neck, The Works of God Prove his Greatness/Alfred William Lawson". The reverse reads, "Worlds First Airliner*26 Passenger*1919/Fly 1908*Aircraft 1910***Lawson Money System/ (airplane) VJSP/1972/Lawson Airplane Company/Lawsonomy*Lawsonian Religion/Milwaukee*New York*Washington D.C." The designer's initials are for Vivian June Smith Padula, a Lawsonian. One gold, 100 silver and 400 bronze examples were struck.

His first career from 1888-1907 was professional baseball. He made one start as a pitcher for the Boston Beaneaters and two for the Pittsburgh Alleghenys during the 1890 season. His minor league playing career lasted through 1895. He later managed in the minors from 1905-1907.

From 1908-1928 he pursued a career in aviation. In 1913 he became an accomplished pilot. He started publishing an aviation magazine *Fly*, and later renaming it *Aircraft* until 1914. He was an advocate for commercial air travel, coining the term "airliner". He was also a proponent for military aircraft.

Arriving in Green Bay, Wisconsin, from New York in 1916, he started the Lawson Aircraft Corporation, located at 128-130 S. Pearl St. It was here that he built his first airplane, the Military Tractor 1 (MT1). Its first successful flight occurred on Sept. 11, 1917 when it flew over Green Bay dropping Liberty Bond fliers. In November, 1917, he moved to a larger building at 201-213 S. Pearl St. Plans were underway for his next plane, the MT2. A prototype was constructed but it never was put into production. Both planes were military trainers. It was 1919 when he moved to a third location but orders for planes never came because the war had ceased. Later that year the company filed bankruptcy.

Milwaukee was his next stop. He arrived here in April, 1919, with plans to develop a commercial airliner. The Lawson Airplane Company was formed and was located in a loft above the Cream City Sash and Door Co., 601 Park St., later becoming 1203 W. Bruce St. After the parts were made for the airliner, named C-2, they were taken to State Fair Park where the plane was assembled. It was a biplane with twin Army surplus Liberty engines and sixteen seats. The plane would have a pilot and co-pilot. It was the largest non-military plane at the time. The initial flight was on August 22, 1919 and a large crowd turned out for the champagne christening of the plane. After making some minor repairs, it took off on August 27 for a 2,000 mile, 5 city trip. The publicity allowed him to get financing for a bigger airplane and obtain government contracts for airmail service.

Later that year, he moved to the vacant Fisk Rubber Co. building at 909 Menomonee Ave. in South Milwaukee, WI to build a bigger airliner. The L-4, known as the "Midnight Airliner", would be his fourth and final airplane. It was a 26 seat biplane with a 125' wing span and powered by three Liberty engines. The plane also had a pilot and co-pilot. By this time Lawson was running out of money. Then a depression hit in the fall of 1920, tightening his money supply. On January 23, 1921 he was offering 10% interest on borrowed money. Because he still had only one plane, he asked to be released from his post office contracts. Investors demanded answers for his delays. He had to lay off his factory workers. His supporters were pressuring him to test the plane. So on May 8, 1921 he made a terrible decision to fly the plane in poor conditions. It took off on a short runway without a head wind. It was unable to clear the trees at the end of the runway and causing him to hit a telephone pole. His backers refused to give him any more money for repairs to the plane which caused him to file bankruptcy in 1922. The crash ended his best chance for commercial success.

Lawson, then known as "The Columbus of the Air", left the Milwaukee area and returned to New York. For a third time he tried to start up the company but he faced the same delays, which ended his ties with aviation in the late 1920's.

It was 1929 when he turned to philosophy. He promoted health practices, including vegetarianism and claimed to have found the secret of living to 200. In 1943 he founded the University of Lawsonomy in Des Moines, IA, now in Sturtevant, WI and the Lawsonian religion. Lawson was described as eccentric, brilliant, self-made entrepreneur with a quest for power and fame. He was ten years ahead of his time when he designed his airplanes with only a sixth grade education. One of the main reasons for his airplane failures was that he was always undercapitalized. He died in San Antonio, Texas, on November 29, 1954 at age 85. Because of Lawson's work here, Wisconsin can be included in the list of states that participated in the early development of airplanes and airliners.

LAWSON
CREATOR OF THE AIRLINER
THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A PERSON HURT IN A LAWSON AIRPLANE
FACTS ARE BETTER THAN FANCIES
HERE IS A FACT — AN ACTUAL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE GREAT 26 PASSENGER CARRYING LAWSON AIRLINER PASSING OVER NEW YORK HARBOR ON ITS 2500 MILE HISTORY MAKING TRIP FROM MILWAUKEE TO WASHINGTON AND RETURN.
LAWSON AIRLINE COMPANY - MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, U. S. A.

An advertisement featuring Lawson's splendid sixteen-passenger airliner. Only when movable seats were placed in the aisle could it carry the twenty-six passengers claimed by Lawson. From *Aerial Age Weekly*, January 26, 1920.

Although this odvertisement indicated that an enormous new Lawson factory (center) would open in Green Bay within o month, it was never built. From *Aerial Age Weekly,* March 25, 1918.

A commemorative march composed in 1919 by Edgar W. Croft, Chicago reporter and passenger on several legs of the flight of Lawson's airliner. Through Croft, who had connections with Wilbur Glenn Voliva of Zion City, Illinois, Lawson sought financial support from the famous community of flat-earthers.